

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently presented and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application, Claims 8-24 having previously been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 6, 7 and 25 are amended by the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-7 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Aoki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,111,299, hereinafter Aoki) in view of Small et al. (U.S. Patent 5,898,434, hereinafter Small).

In response to the above noted rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 1, 6, 7 and 25 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references, and that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the cited references to arrive at Applicants' claims.

Independent Claim 1 recites an information processing apparatus, comprising, in part:

display controlling unit configured to provide display control in such a manner as to display a first user interface when said recording unit records said first picture supplied and to display a second user interface when said reproducing unit reproduces said second picture recorded;

wherein said first user interface displays a recording button through which to input orders for operating said recording unit and a playback button through which to input orders for operating said reproducing unit and said second user interface displays a recording button through which to input orders for operating said recording unit and a playback button through which to input orders for operating said reproducing unit, and

wherein said first user interface displays said recording button in a first status *in which a button accepts a user input* and said playback button in a second status *in which a button*

¹ e.g., specification Figs. 10 and 14, and pp. 37-38.

does not accept a user input and said second user interface displays said recording button in the second status and said playback button in the first status.

As disclosed in an exemplary embodiment at Fig. 10, and pp. 33-34, when a recording interface is displayed, the recording button 142 is replaced on the display by a recording time change button 151 (e.g. changed to active) and the playback button 144 is shown to be inactive. On the other hand, as shown at Fig. 14 and pp. 37-38 of the specification, when the reproduction interface is displayed, the recording button 142 is shown as inactive and the playback button 144 is indicated as active. Thus, when these buttons are “active” they are in a state in which they can accept a user input.

Independent Claims 6, 7 and 25, while directed to alternative embodiments, recite substantially similar features. Accordingly, the arguments presented below are applicable to each of independent Claims 1, 6, 7 and 25.

In responding to the arguments presented in the previous response that the applied references fail to teach or suggest that the “first user interface displays said recording button in a first status and said playback button in a second status...,” pp. 2-3. of the outstanding Office Action relies on Figs. 3, 7A-9B, col. 8, ll. 56-68 and col. 10, l. 50-col. 11, l. 38 of Aoki. The Office Action further asserts that the display interface shown in Fig. 3 includes “REC” and “PLAY” icons, and that each icon is displayed when its respective function is initiated.

More specifically, col. 10, l. 50-col. 11, l. 38, along with the corresponding figures of Aoki, describe that the LCD display on a camera illuminates the icons on the LCD based on a mode of operation of the camera. Thus, when the camera is in a recording mode, the “REC” icon is illuminated, when the camera is in a playback mode, the “PLAY” icon is illuminated, etc.

However, Aoki clearly describes that the LCD panel is simply a display and does not accept a user input for operation in the mode even when each indication is illuminated. More specifically, Aoki describes illuminating the icons while the camera is in the operation mode corresponding to the icon, but the LCD itself does not accept a user input at any time.

Therefore, Aoki not only fails to teach or suggest that the first and second user interfaces display “a recording button through which to input orders for operating said recording unit and a playback button through which to input orders for operating said reproducing unit...,” as admitted in the outstanding Office Action, but the reference also fails to teach or suggest that “said first user interface displays said recording button in a first status *in which a button accepts a user input* and said playback button in a second status *in which a button does not accept a user input* and said second user interface displays said recording button in the second status and said playback button in the first status,” as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

In an attempt to remedy the above noted deficiency of Aoki noted in the outstanding Office Action, the Office Action cites Fig. 11 and col. 15, l. 49-col. 16, l. 3 of Small.

This cited portion of Small is directed to using an active sound element 178 to mark and associate an image with an instance of the element using sound dialogue box 180. Specifically, a user associates a picture 182 to the sound element by using the record button 184 to activate a recorder of the computer, and the user could then playback the recorded sound by selecting play button 186, or by selecting the instance of the sound element attached to the picture.

Small, however, fails to teach or suggest that a first user interface displays a recording button in a first status *in which a button accepts a user input* and a playback button in a second status *in which a button does not accept a user input* and a second user interface

displays a recording button in the second status and the playback button in the first status, as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Instead, as clearly depicted in Fig. 11 of Small, the record button 184 and playback button 186 are displayed in the same manner regardless of whether the recorded sound is being recorded or played back. At no point does Small teach or suggest displaying a button in a status *in which a button does not accept a user input*, as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Therefore, Small and Aoki, neither alone, nor in combination, teach or suggest the user interface recited in the pending independent claims, wherein “said first user interface displays said recording button in a first status *in which a button accepts a user input* and said playback button in a second status *in which a button does not accept a user input* and said second user interface displays said recording button in the second status and said playback button in the first status,” as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Further, as noted above, Aoki is directed to an LCD display that indicates the operation mode of a camera. Small, on the other hand, is directed to a user input button, which allows a user to control record and playback operations on a computer system. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the computer interface of Small with the LCD display of a camera, as disclosed in Aoki, because one is directed to the mere display of the operational status of a camera via an LCD, while the other is directed to providing a user interface on a computing system.

Accordingly, at least for the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-7 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-7 and 25 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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